

Sermon Discussion Guide 9/30-10/6 VGroup Meetings

Sermon Title: Work Relationships - Eph. 6:5-9

Distribute name tags as people enter. Take attendance / collect new guest information including address, phone & email, etc. Allow folks to mingle, fellowship, and settle in with each other.

Creating Comfort Tip: Make sure your meeting room is well lit. If it's too dark or too bright, it may interfere with focus (visual & mental) and dilute the effectiveness of the meeting.

Open the session with prayer.

Discussion Starter/Ice Breaker: (15-20 mins)

Get to know you! Everyone gets a notecard in the group (leaders included). Divide the group into 2 teams. Everyone writes 5 interesting facts about themselves. Collect the cards from each team. Shuffle & hand team 1 cards to team 2 and vice versa. Have each member read a card aloud & have their team try to guess who the person is on the other team. If you want to keep score you can. Grant more points if the correct answer is given after the first "clue" and reduce point values after each remaining clue is read.

Discussion Questions: (30-45 mins)

1. Read Ephesians 6:5-9 together. Recap from the sermon: How is our work impacted by our faith?
2. What characteristics does Paul give in terms of how we are to "behave" (what attitude should we have) in our working relationship with our employers?
 - a. What are some examples of living out these instructions in today's culture? What do you do to put this into practice at your job?
 - b. Are there exceptions to obeying your employer? Discuss examples (think ethical dilemmas). How would you respond if your boss asked you to do something on this list?
3. What obstacles stand in the way or interfere with us upholding these principles in our workplace? (Gossip, idle hands, negative attitudes, jealousy, greed, etc) Discuss specifics.
 - a. Read Titus 2:9-10 & Exodus 20:15 together
 - b. Discuss various means of theft in the workplace (physical items, pens, cash, time theft or not being productive while on the clock, etc). Are we guilty of any of these?
4. Read Colossians 3:12-17 & 22-25. What can we do to keep from falling into these snares and maintain a good "witness" at work?
 - a. Matthew 25:14-26 - In this parable, what does Jesus point out for us? What lessons can we learn from this passage?
5. Ephesians 6:9 speaks to those in leadership. Also look at Colossians 4:1 & James 5:4-6. What characteristics/guides/warnings are outlined for leaders? How can we practically implement these elements in our specific work environments?
6. Read Exodus 20:8-11 together. In today's culture, we are overworked and often sacrifice time with God, family, and friends just to keep up with our jobs. How do we keep the Sabbath (a day of rest and worship) with all that is required by our work? How do we balance Eph 6:5-9 and Ex 20:8-11? What does the Sabbath look like for you?

Closing: Open the floor for discussion / questions.

Prayer Requests:

Close in prayer.

